

**WE CLAIM:**

1. A method for colonizing a plant with an ectomycorrhizal fungus that comprises:
  - inoculating a culture medium with said ectomycorrhizal fungus;
  - adjoining at least one layer of said culture medium to at least one layer of a soil to form a plant colonizing system;
  - optionally, allowing said ectomycorrhizal fungus to colonize said soil;
  - inserting at least one root of said plant into said plant colonizing system; and
  - cultivating said plant in said colonizing system for a period of time sufficient to allow said at least one root to contact said ectomycorrhizal fungus.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said ectomycorrhizal fungus is *Tuber melanosporum*.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said culture medium is inoculated using a root-organ colonized by said ectomycorrhizal fungus.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said root-organ is a *Cistus incanus* root-organ.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein said culture medium is a solid culture medium.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein said soil is sterile vermiculite.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said sterile vermiculite is moistened sterile vermiculite.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said moistened sterile vermiculite has been obtained by adding a mix of Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and modified PDMmA medium to said sterile vermiculite.
9. A system for colonizing a plant with an ectomycorrhizal fungus that comprises at least one layer of a culture medium adjoining at least one layer of a soil, wherein said culture medium is inoculated with said ectomycorrhizal fungus.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein said ectomycorrhizal fungus is *Tuber melanosporum*.
11. The system of claim 9, wherein said culture medium is inoculated using a root-organ colonized by said ectomycorrhizal fungus.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein said root-organ is a *Cistus incanus* root-organ.
13. The system of claim 9, wherein said culture medium is a solid culture medium.
14. The system of claim 9, wherein said soil is sterile vermiculite.
15. The system of claim 14, wherein said sterile vermiculite is moistened sterile vermiculite.
16. The system of claim 15, wherein said moistened sterile vermiculite has been obtained by adding a mix of Ca(OH)<sub>2</sub> and modified PDMmA medium to said sterile vermiculite.
17. Use of the system of claim 9 to colonize a plant with an ectomycorrhizal fungus.

18. The use of claim 17, wherein said ectomycorrhizal fungus is *Tuber melanosporum*.